

CELL PHONE CHARGING CIRCUIT OF USB INTERFACE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to cell phone charging circuit of a USB interface and, more particularly, to a cell phone charging circuit which uses a power source from a USB interface and has the functions of limiting current, compensating temperature and automatically adjusting voltage.

The universal serial bus (USB) has become an inevitable interface in personal computer, including desktop computer, notebook computer, flat-panel computer, and palm computer. Even the Macintosh computer system adapts the USB as the standard interface. The USB provides a tree-like connection to various types of external devices. It does not only provide high-speed data transmission, but also provides a 5V DC power source to the external devices when the computer is either on or off.

Due to the continuous enhancement of performance, the portable computer (including notebook computer, flat-panel computer or palm computer) has gradually dominated over the desktop computer in the market. Meanwhile, cell phones also become so common that each person possess one or more than one cell phones. The portable computer can log on intenet via the cell phone. The space limitation is relieved, and the user can surf the internet everywhere. However, as the cell phones have a very small dimension; and consequently, the battery power is very limited. If the cell phones can be charged through the USB interface, the application can be broadened and become more popular.

The typical cell phone battery includes Ni_MH, L-ion or Li-polymer batteries. The voltage rating for these batteries is 3.6V. The power supplied by a USB interface is normally 5V. Therefore, a voltage drop is required for applying the USB interface to the cell phone. There are three conventional

types of cell phone chargers. The first is the pulse type, which uses software or hardware to convert the output voltage and current into high-frequency pulses, such that the battery is intermittently charged. This is the best type charging method. The performance and lifetime of the battery are optimized
5 by this method. However, the cost of the pulse type is very high. The second type is the linear type (continuous type). That is, a DC current with limited voltage and current is used for charging the battery, such that the battery is protected from being over charged. As the voltage of the battery is increased, the output voltage increases automatically. The performance is
10 superior to the first type, however, this type is more economic. The third type is the simple type, which uses a diode for voltage drop and rectification. Some charger even removes the diode, such that the voltage limiting, current limiting and temperature compensating functions are not provided. This type of charger shortens the lifetime of the battery.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a cell phone charger of a USB interface, which uses the simplest circuit devices and structure to achieve voltage limiting, current limiting, temperature compensating and automatic voltage adjusting functions of a linear charger.

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The cell phone charger includes a PNP transistor, two diodes with negative temperature coefficient, a current limiting resistor, a biased resistor and a filter capacitor. The emitter of the transistor is serially connected to the current limiting resistor, such that two parallel paths are formed by the current limiting resistor and the emitter and base of the transistor and the
25 diodes. Thereby, the voltage between the emitter and the base of the transistor is the same as the voltage of one of the diode; and consequently, the voltage of the current limiting resistor is the same as the voltage of the

diode. The current limiting function is thus implemented. When the temperature of the battery increases by charging, the negative thermal coefficient of the diodes reduces the voltage thereof. Therefore, the output current is decreased to provide the temperature compensation. When the
5 output current of the battery decreases as the voltage of the battery increases, the output voltage is increased as the voltage between the emitter and collector of the transistor drops. The automatic voltage adjustment is achieved.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 These, as well as other features of the present invention, will become apparent upon reference to the drawings wherein:

Figure 1 shows a block diagram of a cell phone charger of a USB interface; and

Figure 2 shows a circuit diagram of the cell phone charger.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to Figure 1, a block diagram of a cell phone charger of a USB interface is shown. As shown, the charger 1 includes two connectors 2, 3, while the connector 3 is a USB connector 3 to plug in a USB port 51 of a computer 5, and the connector 2 is a cell phone connector for plugging in a
20 connector 41 of a cell phone 4. Thereby, a 5V DC source is supplied from the USB port 51 and output to the cell phone 4. Figure 2 shows the circuit diagram of the cell phone charger. As shown, the input voltage V_i is a 5V DC voltage source supplied from the USP port 51. The input voltage V_i is split into two paths. One path includes a first resistor R_1 serially connected
25 to an emitter of a PNP bipolar junction transistor Q_1 , and the other path

includes two diodes D1 and D2 connected in series. The diodes D1 and D2 have negative temperature coefficient. The positive electrode of the diode D1 is connected to the input voltage V_i , while the negative electrode of the diode D2 is connected to the base of the transistor Q1. The collector of the 5 transistor Q1 is the output voltage V_o terminal for charging. The output voltage terminal V_o is connected to a filter capacitor C1 for filtering ripple. The base of the transistor Q1 provides a bias to the transistor Q1 by a grounded resistor R2. Thereby, a common base topology is constructed by saturation. Because the diodes D1 and D2 are forward biased, a potential 10 difference V_{EB} between the emitter and the base (E-B) of the transistor is established similar to that caused by a forward biased diode. The voltage V_{EB} is about the same as the voltage V_{D2} of the diode D2 (about 0.7V). Therefore, the voltage V_{R1} across the first resistor R1 is about the same as the voltage V_{D1} of the diode D1 ($V_{D1}=V_{D2}\approx 0.7V$). Thus, the current flowing 15 through the first resistor R1 is $V_{D1}/R1$. Such current is the emitter current I_E of the transistor Q1. A majority part of the emitter current I_E flows to the collector as collector current I_C , while a small amount of the emitter current I_E flows to the base as the base current I_B . That is, $I_C=\alpha I_E$, and $\alpha\approx 1$. The collector current I_C is the output current I_o . As the forward biased diode is 20 very stable, the output current I_o is stabilized, and a current limiting effect is obtained. Further, the output voltage V_o is the input voltage V_i subtracted by the voltage V_{R1} of the first resistor R1 and the emitter voltage V_{EC} of the transistor Q1, so that a voltage limiting effect is resulted.

When the temperature of the battery is raises during charging 25 operation, the negative coefficient of the diode D1 cause the voltage V_{D1} to drop due to the temperature rise. Meanwhile, the voltage across the first resistor R1 is increased as the resistor R1 has positive thermal coefficient. The emitter current I_E and the output current I_o are thus reduced (since

$I_E = V_{D1}/R1$). The temperature compensation is thus generated. When the output current I_O decreases as the voltage of the battery increases, the emitter voltage V_{EC} of the transistor Q1 decreases, such that the output voltage V_O is increased as the emitter voltage V_{EC} decreases. An automatic voltage 5 adjustment is obtained.

According to the above, the present invention uses a simple circuit structure to provide the voltage limiting, current limiting, temperature compensating and automatic voltage adjusting functions.

This disclosure provides exemplary embodiments of the present 10 invention. The scope of this disclosure is not limited by these exemplary embodiments. Numerous variations, whether explicitly provided for by the specification or implied by the specification, such as variations in shape, structure, dimension, type of material or manufacturing process may be implemented by one of skill in the art in view of this disclosure.